

BORN FROM WATER

Long ago, in times when there were still no plants, trees, people or animals upon this world, and only the Great Spirit, Ksaw Wala, and Water, and other Original Forces, the First Beings, as we call them, like for example Si, the Spirit of Changes, Tay, the Sun, Ate, the Moon, and many others, dwelled in existence; the Water was gushing through this empty and brand new world - young, curious and free.

She (and naturally, Water has always been a female principle if considered as one of the First Beings) was running around excitedly, wanting to be everywhere and in all the parts of the Creation at the same time, having the urgent need of seeing all the things and meeting everyone, nudging everything that existed with her cold nose like a giant liquid puppy. She was rushing backwards and forwards, one moment this way and the next the other - and there was nothing in the world that would stop her, or at least tame her, because the Great Spirit seemed to be very busy just rejoicing in the elegant beauty of the Creation, smiling blissfully, and also because there were yet no rocks, ridges or stones that would stand against the strong water currents and stop them, or at least slow them down. And the Water continued to swell and heave and seemed to be absolutely everywhere, flooding every little piece of the world. And so the First Forces, the First Beings, like for example Tiwe Yase, the One who Named the Earth, or Ekthe, the Awareness of Space, and others, started to complain bitterly to the Great Spirit about this graceful but unrestrained Element. They wanted Him and Water to reach some kind of an agreement, so there would be a place reserved only for Her, where she would live and where she couldn't cause harm to others. "And wouldn't it be nice, if they could all co-exist in affectionate closeness, love and harmony, living together in mutual respect?", they all went on moaning... And if for any reason, Water wouldn't be willing to listen, it

was supposed to be the Great Spirits` job, naturally, to tame her or to even restrain her within the newly appointed place. That was the plan.

"There is far too much Water on the Earth! Give me some as well, dear Father," the Moon was pleading Ksaw Wala.

And Ksaw Wala, the Great Spirit, patiently listened to all the complaints and laments of these ancient and powerful prehistoric Earthlings, the First Beings (like for instance Weetahn, the One that Stops all Illnesses on Time, or Daati, the Spirit of Brotherhood, to name a few). And in the end, He nodded and agreed to help.

But Water wasn`t at all happy: "Why should I be tied up by force? What am I being punished for? Only for acting as my nature tells me? Only for being myself the way I have always been since the Beginning? Is it my fault that I was created this way?"

Indeed, what was there to be done, so everyone would be contented and pleased by the result?

And so Ksaw Wala decided in his wisdom, for it was Him who was the Creator of Everything after all, that all the Water there was on the whole wide world should gather in one place that would be reserved only for Her... and to be fair, Water didn`t have any objections and hastily started getting all the bits and pieces of her Being together... every single drop, every stream, puddle, cloud and lake, and every little wisp of fog or mist, not forgetting the smallest pieces of ice or snow... and in the end, all this mass gathered in one place, blended and mixed one with another, and as a result, an incredibly enormous power was formed, passionately pulsing with Life and expectation... and the giant sea heaved and turned over, numerous times, as if dreaming turbulent dreams of sudden changes, as if it wrestled with primordial apparitions - that`s how heavy and wild it became.

"There is indeed far too much water, but I can't let it perish for She is one of my beloved children. However, I can make parts of Her live in other beings, thus there will be less of Her in one place, and yet there will be none of Her missing," said Ksaw Wala, the Great Spirit.

And when, on the third day, the vast ocean calmed down, first human beings, animals, trees, flowers, herbs and even the male and female minerals and stones came out from it, followed by the first birds that came out flying from the waves straight into the open air - and these all rapidly inhabited the whole world, further multiplying and spreading into new and remote places, filling the emptiness with many new forms of Water- here taking on themselves the resemblance of people, there hiding in a shape of rocks and minerals, and elsewhere pulsing in the bodies of birds or healing herbs.

So much Water there once was on the Earth, that She could hardly all fit in, but in His limitless wisdom, Ksaw Wala, the Great Spirit, turned a part of Her into other forms, and let Her live in other beings - somewhere as people and somewhere else as trees.

People of the Yanacona tribe say: "It is only because of Water that we all have Life. Whenever She leaves, She always finds the way back. She is eternal and desires our existence."